

DECEMBER 2023 PROGRAMS

All programs are free, open to the public, and **meet inside the Notch Visitor Center**, unless otherwise noted. Parking is free. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Program times and dates are subject to change. Inclement weather or extreme cold may cancel programs, call ahead. Trails may be snow-covered, icy, or muddy. For more information call the park at (413) 253-2883.

**OPEN
TUESDAY
through
SATURDAY**

NOTCH VISITOR CENTER, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Open December through mid-March. The Visitor Center features park orientation information, exhibits, restrooms, and drinking water. Take a walk or hike in the park. Accessible by [PVRTA public transit](#) (Amherst R38). Wheelchair accessible. Located at 1500 West Street in Amherst.

**TUESDAYS
through
SATURDAYS**

RANGE REVEALS, 9:00 a.m.—noon

For ages 7 and up. Three self-guided exploration stations reveal wonders of the Range. Park staff is on-hand to help uncover the story.

Mountain Building. A better understanding of how the Range was made.

Dinosaur Tracks. Dinosaurs were once here! Let's look closer at fossilized tracks.

Animal Tracking—If you look carefully you can see what animal has been here.

**WEDNESDAYS
& SATURDAYS**

WINTER WONDERLAND CHALLENGE, 12:30—3:00 p.m.

For ages 10-adult. Ask the park staff for the “trail of the day” and try these self guided exploration challenges as you hike along. Come back and share with park staff:

Animal Tracking Excursion—who's been here?

Tree Bark Challenge— how many trees can you ID?

**WEDNESDAYS
& SATURDAYS**

WINTER HIKING TIPS, 9:00—9:30 a.m.

For ages 7 and up. Before you head out on the trail join in this short hiking safety review. Familiarize yourself with the Range's trails. Park staff offer great trail suggestions.

**WEDNESDAY
DEC. 13 & 27**

HAIKU CLUB, 11:00 a.m.—NOON

For creative adults. Gather, craft, and share Range-based Haiku & Senryu. Explore these poetic styles to express how the Range inspires you!

THURSDAYS

NICE & EASY HIKE, 1:00—3:00 p.m.

For active seniors, also open to all ages. See the forest through the eyes of winter. Easy-paced, guided hikes geared toward **Modest slope**, 2 to 3-miles. Dress appropriately for winter weather. Hiking poles and traction devices for boots (or snowshoes) recommended. Hike meeting location changes.

North Side Ramble: Dec. 7, 21.

Meet at Notch Visitor Center in Amherst.

South Side Ramble: Dec. 14, 28.

Meet at 79 Batchelor Street parking lot in Granby.

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DECEMBER 2023 PROGRAMS

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FRIDAYS

KIDLEIDOSCOPE, 10:00—11:00 a.m.

For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Program includes a story, activity, and a craft. Discover more about the local wildlife who make the park their home. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Notch Visitor Center. All materials are provided.

Whose Tracks are These?: Dec. 1, 22.

Chipmunk Song: Dec. 8, 29.

White Owl, Barn Owl: Dec. 15.

FRIDAYS

OFF THE BEATEN PATH HIKES, 1:00—2:30 p.m.

Geared for adults but for all ages. Park staff guided hikes for either discovery or destressing, 1 to 2-miles, Dress appropriately for winter weather. Hiking poles and traction devices for boots, or snowshoes, recommended. Meeting location changes.

Forest Bathing: Dec. 1, 22.

Can the forest help us feel more at peace? Yes! Take a walk to destress and find inner peace. Meet at Notch Visitor Center.

Tale of Two Trails: Dec. 8, 29.

Two parallel trails here tell two very different stories, and over two very different times. Come hear, explore, and discover. Meet at Notch Visitor Center.

Exposed Rock: Erratics and Layers. Dec 15.

Explore the Range geology in winter at Skinner State Park. -

***Meet at Mountainside Trailhead, Rte. 47, Hadley.**

SATURDAYS

WINTER EXPLORATIONS,

10:30—11:30 a.m. & 1:00—2:00 p.m.

For families with children, ages 9 & up. Park staff-guided program. Held inside Visitor Center.

Animal Tracking: Dec. 9.

Winter is a great time to see what animals wander in the park. See how to identify park wildlife by the tracks they leave behind and see what they've been up to!

Tree Bark ID: Dec. 16, 30.

No leaves? - no problem! There is a year-round way to identify trees—bark! Learn some basics, and try out a new skill.

How was the Range Formed? Dec. 23.

The Holyoke Range is a unique geologic formation. Dig a little deeper into this fascinating timeline.

Range Haiku: Dec. 2.

Discover the basics of this short form of poetry dedicated to nature. Capture in words your own Range experience!

DEC. 23
through
JAN. 1

STORYWALK*: *Under and Over the Snow*, by Kate Messner

For families with children. A children's picture book story about who lives over and under winter's snow. Walk a short route near the Visitor Center to read this wonderful story.

*The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Story Walk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

coming events